

THE TIE THAT BINDS

Rocky Mount United Methodist Church
35 North Main Street, Rocky Mount, VA 24151

Phone: 540-483-5338 Fax: 540-484-1698

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Website: www.rm-umc.org

Our Mission: *"To Know Jesus and Share His Love"*



August 2023



This newsletter is bittersweet for me. As I write this at my desk I have tears of sadness and tears of joy. August 1, I will go part-time as the Finance Manager. I have been here 20 years as the Administrative Assistant. My girls were 8, 10, and 12 at the time and now they are married with children of their own. I have five grandchildren now which I can't believe.

I never saw this as a job but a way to use my spiritual gifts for the Lord's work. I have been very blessed to be able to do that here.

I always felt like you were my second church family. You were there for me during the joys of my life as the girls were growing up and when my grandchildren were born. You were also there for me during the difficult times including when my husband was diagnosed with colorectal cancer, a year later he lost his job, more recently when my mother was diagnosed with dementia and last year when my brother passed. I couldn't have gotten through those tough times without your prayers and love. Thank you for always being there for me and my family. I know you will show the next person sitting at this desk the same love you have shown me.

I will miss seeing you as I will not be sitting at this desk anymore, but I will still see those of you that are part of the Finance Committee. I am looking forward to this chapter in my life.

I love you all!
Valerie Latimer



Save the date!!!! Family pool party on August 6 at 5:00 p.m. at Furnace Creek Swim Club. All families and youth invited! Individuals who are not members of Furnace Creek Swim Club will be required to pay a \$5 fee. Potluck style, so bring a dish to share with everyone!!



Hear about what God is doing in the community through Young Life, and learn easy, practical ways to get involved in changing the lives of young people and shifting the spiritual landscape of Franklin County! August 13, right after church. Meal provided.



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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To Know Jesus And To Share His Love

Dear RMUMC,

It's back to school time! And you know what that means? Back-to-school sales? New sneakers? An impending feeling of doom surrounding that first day and discerning the best way to navigate the educational structures of the classroom? No, silly! Back to school time means a church newsletter article about school buses!

Riding the school bus, along with working in the food industry at least once, are two things that I believe everyone should do. Other things I think everyone should do? Order the food item in the name of the restaurant. (Meaning: don't order spaghetti at Burger King). Double tie your shoes. Read more history. Flush.

As I said, something everyone should do, at least once, is ride the school bus. The school bus for me was a learning ground, a place of experiential education. I got my first kiss on a school bus. I say got because I did not give, being too shell shocked to believe this was happening to gangly, all elbows, me. The school bus is where I learned how to spit out the window. You must, MUST, close the window behind yours or else your friend sitting one row back might not be your friend by the end of the ride. The school bus is where I learned leftover tomato soup and bumpy roads don't go together. In related news, the school bus is where I gained a deep knowledge of how to clean a forty-five feet child transport vehicle.

I learned all about geography on the school bus. We knew those country roads well. Grandview Road, Old Tate Mill Road, and Bent Tree Drive are etched into my childhood memory. I could tell you the houses that had the dogs that liked to chase and the houses with the dogs that would barely look at the bus from underneath their porch. As we drove up the Cove Road curves, we'd wonder if the bus would make it, all the time the bus was creaking and moaning like a cow in labor. Us kids would holler real loud most of the time, that is until the bus driver hollered louder than all 30 of us put together. She fussed us out regularly, having been trained, we believed, by the dinosaurs.

This month, the school buses will start rolling again. They'll be filled to the brim with kids, bus drivers, and maybe some tomato soup. Kids will ride by our church building, wondering about the songs sung there, the lessons taught there, the lives changed there. You may be at the age where you're no longer looking out of a school bus but looking at the school bus. When you see the kids trudging onto the bus or bursting off the bus, stop and pray for those boys and girls. Get to know them, let them know where you worship, what we believe, and how there's a place at the table for them. Each child should know the love of God and you can be the vessel by which that love is made known to them.

God bless you and keep you,
Will



United
Women
in Faith

(Phyllis Lavinder & Debbie Caulder, Co-Presidents)

It has been a hot and busy summer! We began with a picnic at Dan and Linda Walter’s beautiful lake home on June 5. We had a lot of food, fun and it was well attended.

Our UWF unit hosted the Henry Fork Service Center work team with a hot dog luncheon. Thanks to Judy Anderson and Linda Walters for all your help.

We had a churchwide birthday party on July 30 with a covered dish luncheon, birthday cake, and games.

Upcoming events:

August 21

Officer Planning Meeting for 2023-2024; time TBD

August 28, 11:00 am

Business meeting held in upstairs Assembly Room; Email Phyllis Lavinder (virginiaheartgirl@yahoo.com) or call (540-420-8381) with questions.

Topics for discussion: Annual Budget for 2024; Nominations for Officers, Reading Program (be sure to bring list of books read and persons who heard you read); Kathy Matthews will complete Living into our Purpose Report; Membership Report will be finalized; fourth quarter Treasurer’s report will be due September 10.

October 1, 2:30-5:00 p.m.

We will be the hosts at the Mountain View District Annual Meeting that will be held at the Kaleidoscope.

Our United Women in Faith are always seeking new members, visit anytime.



On September 3, we’ll celebrate outdoor worship in the park. We’ll gather at Mary Elizabeth Park for a worship service at 10:55 a.m. with acoustic music, keyboard, and some good ole fashioned Cokesbury hymns. There will be a baptism, there will be communion, there will be preaching. And of course, there will be a potluck with drinks provided. Call your neighbors, bring a lawn chair, and let’s have a ball. Outdoor worship at Mary Elizabeth Park on September 3. See you there. Small Groups will meet as scheduled in the church building at 10:00 a.m.



Women’s Bible Study

All women of the church are invited to the Ladies Bible Study that begins September 19. We will be studying “Gideon” by Priscilla Shirer. We will meet 9:30-11:30 a.m., in the Assembly Room (Redeemer’s SS Classroom). Books will cost \$25 per person. Please notify Linda Walters (757-635-0109; lindaw@shentel.net) or Peggy Hodges (540-483-0771; peggyjhodges@hotmail.com) as soon as possible if you plan to participate so we can order books. Invite your friends and family to come too!

“Make the world a better place one person at a time. Start with yourself.”

— Linda Poindexter



Cub Scouts
Selling
Popcorn

(Trish Rhodes, Cub Scout Pack #456)

It's that time of year again. We are selling popcorn from August 26-October 22 around town and will be set up in front of the church on Sunday, September 10 after the service just for the church. We have a variety of snacks including varieties of popcorn flavors in pre-popped and microwave bags, they brought back the fan favorite, Trail Mix, and added Milk Chocolatey Pretzels this year. Prices start at \$10, and you can also make military donations where the company will send popcorn to certain military groups they have coordinated with. We can take all forms of payment including cash, checks made to Pack 456, credit and debit cards and most payment apps. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing everyone on September 10.



Our Higher Education and Campus Ministry Chairperson is Serena Jamison. Please keep Serena informed of any news concerning our college kids. She can be reached at 420-3719 (or call the church office at 483-5338 or email at admin@rm-umc.org). Please make sure we have your college student's address at school. Throughout the year, Serena will send your student cards. We also want to be sure to include them on the newsletter mailing list and send them a copy of the Upper Room. Good luck and have a great year!



Remember our ten college students in your prayers as they return to college life.

Coastal Carolina University—
Jodi Huffman

Emory & Henry College—
Jackson Amos

Ferrum College—
Ainsley Kelley

Radford University Carilion—
Katie Meeks

University of Alabama—
Isabelle Davis

University of Tennessee—
Lili Call

Virginia Tech—
Rachel Justice
Lauren Stone

Virginia Western Community College—
Will English

Virginia Western Community College—
Tori Huffman

Ingredients for true success

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

—George Washington Carver



Vital Congregation Statistics for June

I. Finances—Church Operating Budget

Amount Brought Forward From 2022	\$8,276	
Transferred from Building Fund	\$20,000	
2022 Fourth Quarter Tithe to Ministries	<u><\$7,207></u>	
Budgeted Offerings Expected to Receive through 6/30/23		\$154,248
Actual Offerings Received through 6/30/23	\$159,031	
Budgeted Expenses Expected to Spend through 6/30/23		\$170,226
Actual Expenses Paid through 6/30/23	<u><\$150,121></u>	
Ending Balance, 6/30/23	\$29,979	

- II. Average Worship Attendance = 101
 Average Online Viewers = 29
 Average Small Groups Attendance = 38



The staff at Rocky Mount United Methodist Church are simply the best. They work tirelessly to present the Gospel, to care for the people, to ensure that the vital ministry makes serious Kingdom impacts across Rocky Mount and the world. Valerie Latimer, our Administrative Assistant, is an essential part of the staff here. Dedicated to our church for two decades, in those 20 years you couldn't call, visit, email or contact Rocky Mount UMC without experiencing the warmth and hospitality of Valerie.

On August 1, Valerie will be transitioning to part-time to care for her grandson Peyton. Peyton's gain is Rocky Mount's loss. While she won't be in the office as regularly, she will still be managing the church's finances, assisting counters, and serving alongside the Finance Committee. She'll keep on with her work in budgeting for 2024 and beyond.

The success of Rocky Mount United Methodist Church is due to God working through Valerie. She's a dedicated servant of the Lord and lives out her call as a disciple of Christ through her vocation as an Administrative Assistant.

We celebrate Valerie Latimer's work and congratulate her on this momentous day. On the one hand, we'll miss seeing you around as much, but on the other hand, we honor the commitment she is making to her family.

Thank you Valerie!

All of us at Rocky Mount United Methodist Church



(Lynn Meeks, Director of Music Ministries)

During the month of August, I'll be making final plans and ordering things for all the choirs. Yellow registration forms for children who will be participating in **Wonderful Wednesday** this year will be available on the table near the Assembly Room. As always, it will be for mature four-year-olds through fifth graders. Like last year, the older group, second through fifth graders will alternate singing and playing chimes during their music time. I would like to have forms filled out for **all children who have attended in the past as well as new children.** This will help me to have enough food and craft projects ready for the first meeting. Registration will continue through Sunday, September 3. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 13 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

HELP! VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! The continued success of our Wonderful Wednesday program for children depends on volunteers. Two volunteers are needed each week to provide a simple meal for the children and to help with a craft project. I can prepare the craft and teach the music, but I can't do everything by myself. Most of the parents take turns volunteering but that still leaves quite a few Wednesday nights open. **Any church member or guest can help! We need you!** These are precious children. They are part of your church family. As Christians and as members of Christ's holy church, we are called to minister to "the least of these." This is such an easy way to serve God. Single adults, "empty nesters," and

grandparents; (We need you men, too!) please consider signing up to **volunteer once in the fall and once in the spring.** You will surely receive much more than you will be providing. Get to know the children of our church!! Please sign-up by August 27. Volunteer sign-up forms (blue) are located on the table next to the Assembly Room.

The Jubilant Ringers will resume rehearsals on Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00 p.m. We will be dedicating this season to Vanessa Carter, a beloved member who passed away last fall. If you would like to give bells a try, please let me know. At this time, we need at least one new member! See you on September 12.

Do you like to sing? The **Chancel Choir** needs you!!! Weekly rehearsals will resume Wednesday, September 6, at 7:00 p.m. with a Welcome Back/New Members Night. This group is multigenerational; middle school students, high school students, and adults. We need help with all voice parts. I hope to see **YOU** on September 6.

I am always available if you have questions or need more information on any of our music ministries. Other worship ministries you may be interested in are the **Drama Team** and **The Moving Word**, our liturgical dance group. These are both multigenerational (Older Children through Senior Adult).

**All meetings will take place on the fourth floor in the music practice area. Parents, just a reminder, I would like all children coming to Wonderful Wednesday to be escorted to the room. Volunteers will bring them downstairs to you at 6:30 p.m.

Feel free to call me at church 483-5338, or email me music@rm-umc.org. I'm happy to talk about how you can use your gift of music and the other arts for God.

Love and Peace,
Lynn

Youth Group News

On July 10,
your youth helped pick 2300 ears of corn.

On July 11,
your youth helped pick 6700 pounds
of collard greens.

On July 12,
your youth helped pick 7710 pounds
of collard greens.

On July 12,
your youth helped
serve 200 people at the Mt. Olive, NC
Make a Difference Food Pantry.

On July 13,
your youth slept hard on the drive home.

The youth mission trip with the Society of St. Andrew's Harvest of Hope camp gave your youth a chance to serve the communities of Mt. Olive, Fayetteville, and Evergreen, NC. They gleaned tens of thousands of pounds of produce that went directly to the tables and plates of hungry people across Eastern North Carolina. Be proud of your youth because they worked hard, never complained, and made a difference.

On the final day of the trip, they were asked to describe, in one word, how the week had gone for them. What difference had the week made on their hearts? What will they remember the week being?

One youth, wisely, said it was "hot." Another said, "eye-opening." And another of your youth said, "life changing."

They were charged with not letting the work of the week stay in that week. Rather, they were to consider how to make a difference when they came home. One of them pondered justice issues, why so many people are hungry in our area. Another thought about how to retain dignity while accessing a food pantry. Another thought about the wide variety of folks that need food assistance, and that there isn't just one "type" that needs that help.

Your youth asked hard questions, and sometimes were left pondering the uncomfortable answers. They sweated, they laughed, they drank copious amounts of water.

Mission trips tap into the love God has for us, the original mission trip from heaven to Earth. Maybe God's calling you to serve on a trip. I pray you'll be open to going, serving, and bringing home lessons, like these youth did, that transform your day-to-day living.

Thank you for your prayers.



Little Lambs in the News

(Kelsey Jamison, Director)

Happy summer church family! As school is right around the corner, please help us spread the word for the 3-year-old class. There are still spots available. We are looking forward to a fun year! We will be welcoming back Aundrea as our assistant as well as Casey for the three-year-old teacher. We hope you all have a blessed rest of your summer, and we look forward to being back in the building in September.

Blessings!
Kelsey



Happy Birthday to:

August 2 Janet Land
August 3 Mary Katherine Clements
August 3 Linda Dunlap
August 7 Emily Waller
August 7 Cecil Young
August 10 Casey Naff
August 11 Lauren Stone
August 13 Crosby Eitner
August 14 Sharon Angle
August 14 Diana Clements
August 14 Ina Clements
August 14 Jeff Hall
August 15 Connie Breedlove
August 16 Enna Roseberry
August 16 Lindsey Jenkins
August 16 Angela Ward Oliveira
August 17 Caitlyn Berger
August 17 Chloe Berger
August 17 Bobby Thompson
August 17 Jeff Worley
August 18 Melissa Osborne
August 19 Callie Angle
August 19 Sandra Funk
August 19 Aidan Jenkins
August 20 Daniel Lorens
August 21 Bob Chapman
August 22 Steven Eitner
August 23 Faye Prillaman
August 24 Ruth Cook
August 25 Annie Graninger
August 27 Jim Anderson
August 27 Audrey Mitchell
August 28 Pat Robertson
August 28 Jack Watts
August 29 Abe Naff
August 29 Ronald Prillaman
August 30 Judy Anderson
August 30 Betty Dillon

Happy Anniversary to:

August 2 Benny and Annette Board
August 6 Jeff and Leanne Worley
August 11 Zac and Jill Perdue
August 11 Carl and Mitzi Secrest
August 12 Eric and Kathryn Lorens
August 12 Mike and Jane Turner
August 16 Greg and Linda Dunlap
August 17 Russell and Bridgett Damron
August 17 Tim and Sandra Funk
August 17 Jake and Jane Waller
August 25 Jerry and Linda Davis



Dear Friends,
I am sincerely grateful for all the cards, calls, food, and most of all your thoughts and prayers supporting me and my family during my recent illness.

I believe the good Lord must have something in mind for me in my remaining time. I hope to recognize it here in Rocky Mount United Methodist Church. My increasing years are allowing me to recognize that so many people deserve the Christian love that I feel for all of you.

Agape,
Jack Collins

A primer on love

Is life not full of opportunities for learning love? Every man and woman every day has a thousand of them. The world is not a playground; it is a schoolroom. Life is not a holiday, but an education. And the one eternal lesson for us all is how better we can love.

—Henry Drummond



Prayer Concerns:

Our country, our church and those serving in our armed forces; People of Ukraine; Kelly Peterson; Willie Denny; Arnold Dillon, Sr.;

Rodney Cundiff; Bob Huffman; Debbie Caulder; Jack Dillon; Jason Lavinder; Hazel Henderson; Lillie Hatchett; Jerry Davis; Barbara Huffman; Lynn Cooper; Betty Dillon; CO Brickey; Jennifer Cooper; John Cooper; Karen Hobgood (Tammy Burdick); Sophia Moore (CO Brickey); Dr. Matthew and Amanda Billups (Jack Watts); Don Angle (Steve Angle); Mike Shea (Enna Roseberry); Debbie Ford (Ben Whitesell); and Dennis Holland (Cyndee Holland);

Forget-Me-Nots:

Kathleen Higgins



Robin Cooper and Family in the death of her brother, Elonza Turner, on May 30

Mittie Hambrick and Family in the death of her aunt, Uva Louise Anderson Baker, on July 12

Jeanne Banks, Cyndee Holland and Sandra Funk and Families in the death of their aunt, Elsie Burkholder, on July 15

“Aging is not ‘lost youth’ but a new stage of opportunity and strength.”

—Betty Friedan

Just for Kids



Use simple ingredients and your imagination to bake these fluffy, cloud-like treats.

What you need:

- 3 egg whites
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract
- Mixer
- 2 Tbsp. powdered sugar
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- Parchment paper

What you do:

1. Preheat oven to 300°. In a mixing bowl, combine egg whites and vanilla. Whisk eggs with mixer at medium speed until frothy.
2. While whisking, gradually add sugar and cornstarch. Keep whisking at high speed until stiff peaks form.
3. Spoon mixture onto a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Create fun shapes.
4. Bake 20 minutes. Cool and enjoy!

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VA 24151

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**ROCKY
MOUNT**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts...

Open Minds...

Open Doors...

The People of the United Methodist Church

CHURCH STAFF

Reverend Will Waller, Pastor
Lynn M. Meeks, Director of Music Ministries
Jeanne Banks, Music Accompanist
Teresa Strobel, Office Manager
Valerie Latimer, Finance Manager
Jennifer Ardis, Nursery Attendant
Rebecca Dillon, Children's Church Coordinator
Brad Hodges, Custodian

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. Small Groups
10:55 a.m. Worship